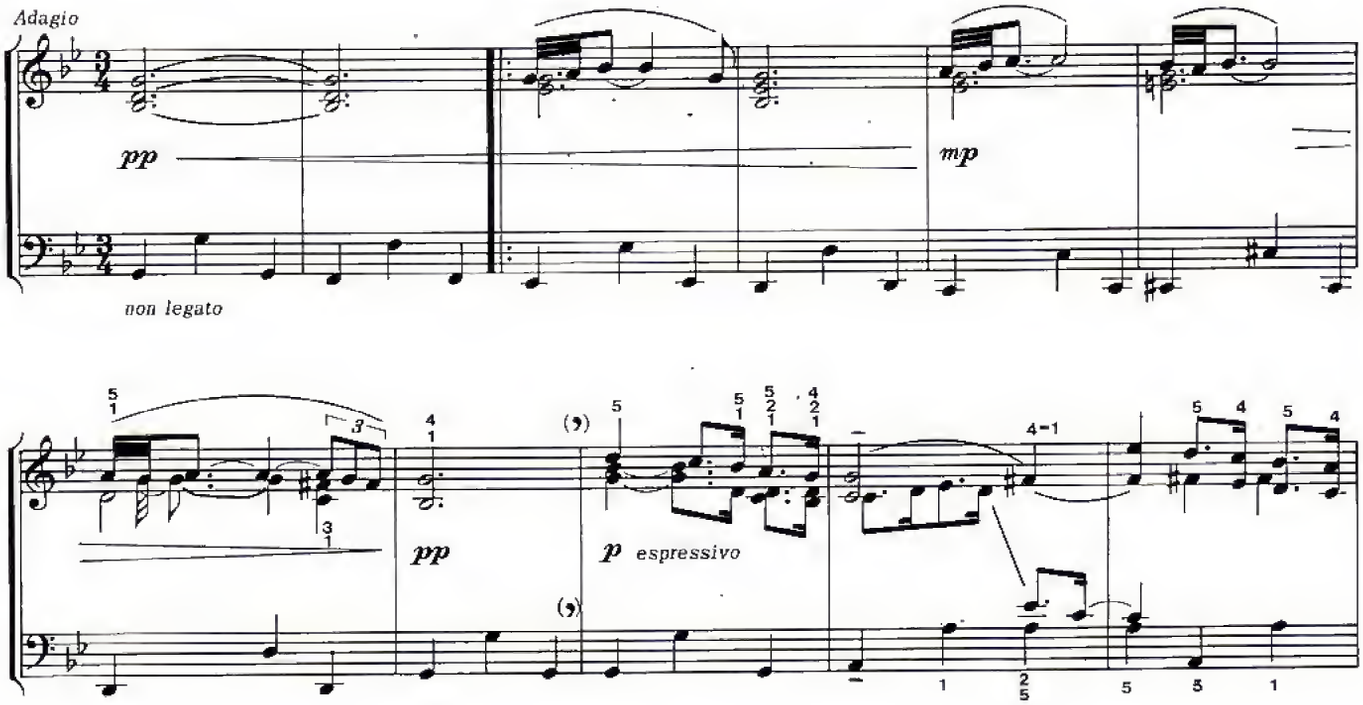
ADAGIO

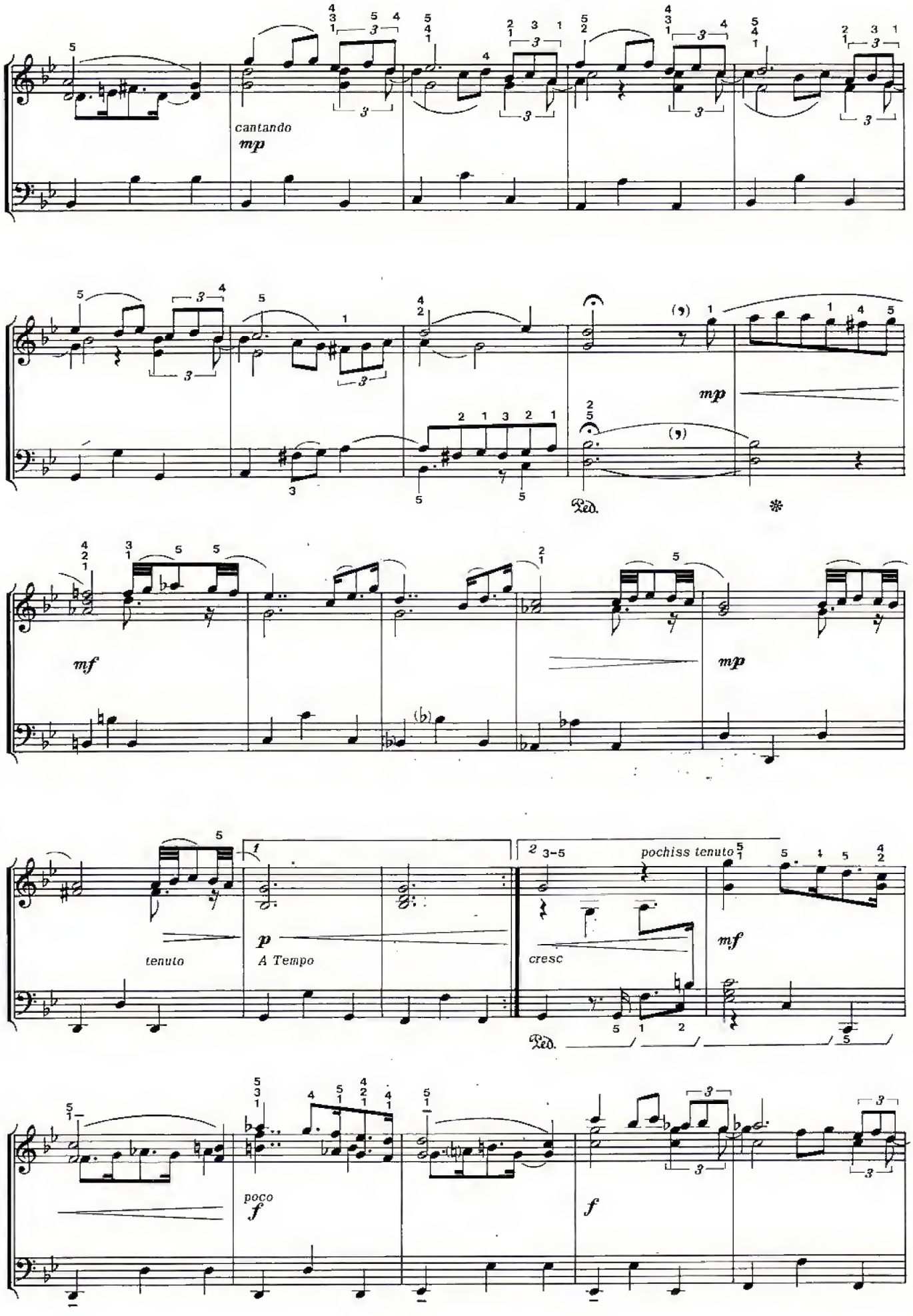
(from the Adagio in G minor for strings and organ)

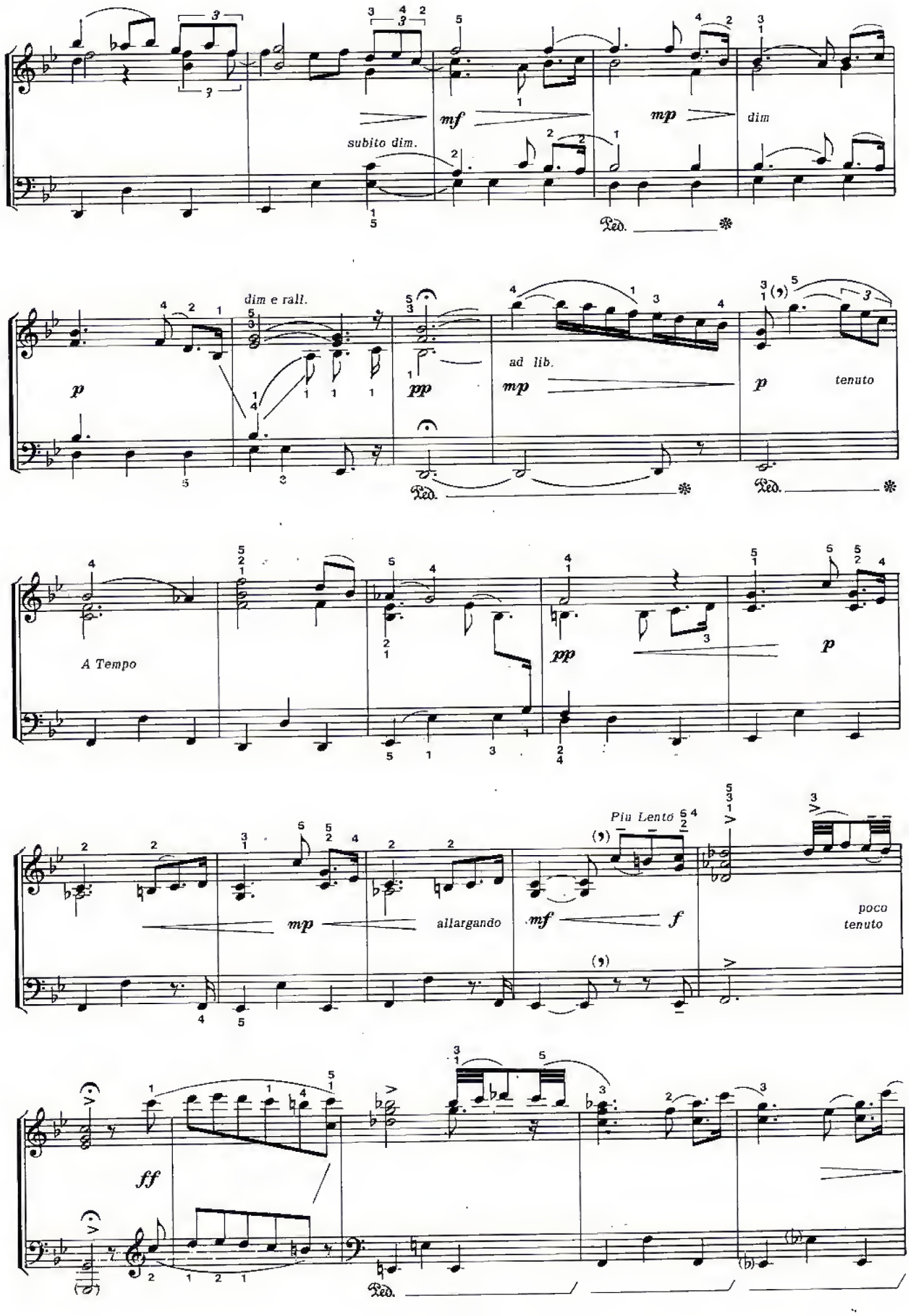
Tomaso Albinoni (1671–1751) arr. Francis Pott

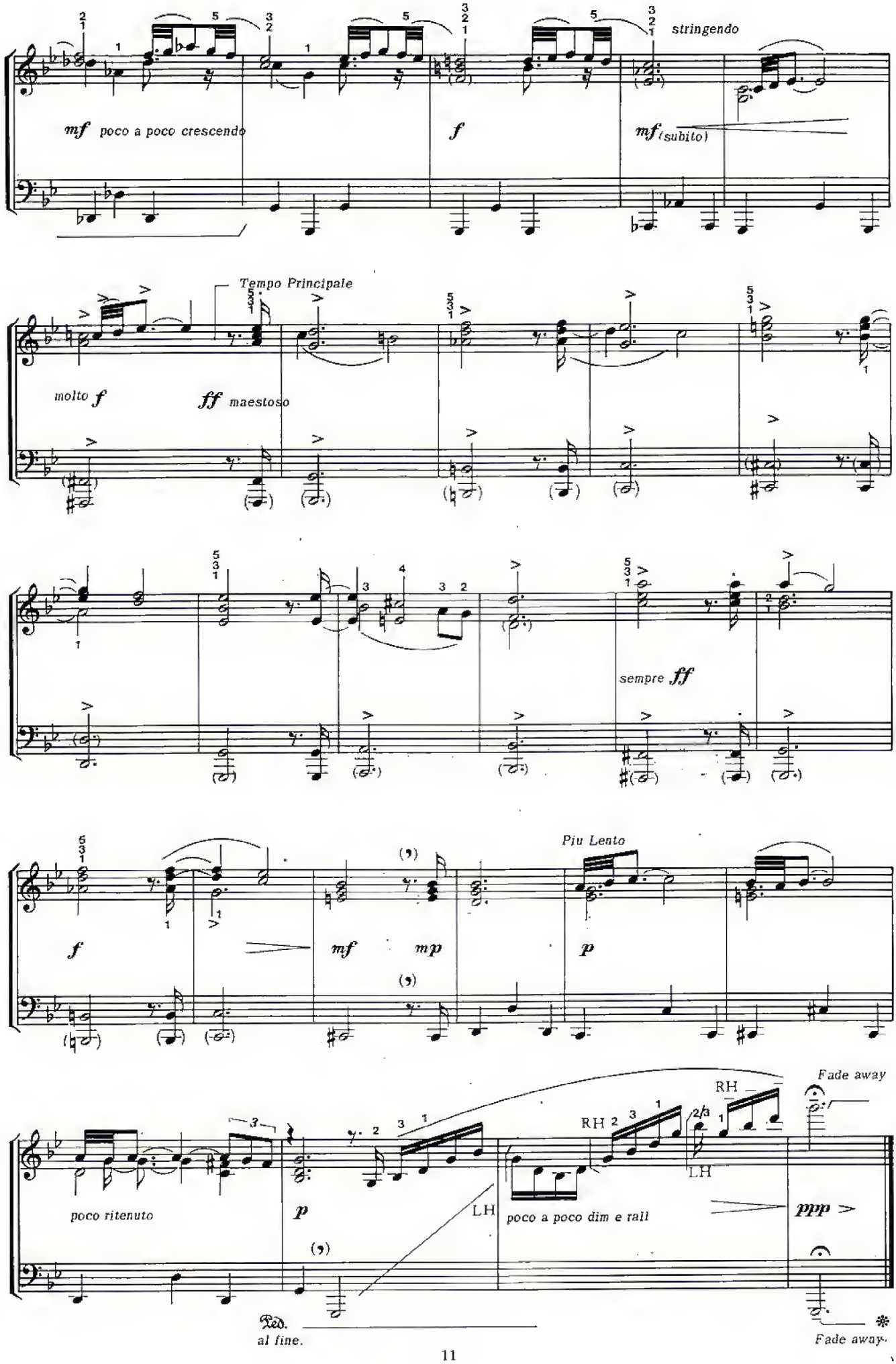
An Italian composer and violinist, born in Venice. His immense output of music includes over 50 operas and 40 cantatas, but it is for his highly individual instrumental works that he is most esteemed. Bach respected Albinoni highly enough to use one of his themes for a fugue. He was a close friend of Vivaldi but generally associated little with other musicians which might account, to some extent, for his individuality. He did, however, have connections among the European nobility which must have helped him to advance his career. In 1722 he was invited to Munich to direct performances of his opera *I veri amici* and a smaller stage work *Il trionfo dell'amore*, in celebration of the marriage of Karl Albert, the Prince-elector, to Maria Amalia, daughter to the late Emperor Joseph I; shortly before this he had composed a set of twelve concertos dedicated to Maximilian Emanuel, Elector of Bavaria. Some maintain that Albinoni was the first to introduce the minuet into the symphony; whether or not this is true, the quality of his thematic material places him among the forerunners of the symphonic style.

This piece demands both delicacy and power. Strive for a firm singing tone in the melody line and ensure that the tied R.H. notes are held to make the required dissonances wherever they occur, but especially at bars 14, 16 and 18. Use the throbbing L.H. octaves to give momentum to the entire piece. Note the rhythmic variation between bars 23/24 and 85/86 and linger on the full quaver in the latter bars. Use the forearm weight to give the necessary power in the final 20 bars.




cantando
mp
mp
Ped.
mf
mp
tenuto
p
A Tempo
cresc
mf
pochiss tenuto
Ped.
poco
f
f


subito dim.
mf
mp
dim
Ped.
dim e rall.
p
pp
ad lib.
mp
p
tenuto
Ped.
Ped.
A Tempo
pp
p
Più Lento
mp
allargando
mf
f
poco
tenuto
ff
Ped.


stringendo
mf poco a poco crescendo
f
mf (subito)
Tempo Principale
molto f
ff maestoso
sempre ff
Piu Lento
f
mf
mp
p
poco ritenuto
p
LH
poco a poco dim e rall
ppp
RH
LH
Fade away
Ped.
al fine.
Fade away.